

Docket # 98D-1146

139 E Magnolia
Lockesburg, AR 71846
March 10, 1999

Docket Management Branch (HFA-305)

Food + Drug Administration
Rockville, MD

9600 '99 MAR 17 12:47

Dear Sirs;

This letter is our comment about the proposals to pull or further regulate the drugs that we use on our beef cattle + broiler chicken ranch.

We have 100 mother cows. If we loose Aureomycin crumbles (mixed with salt + minerals in summer to prevent anaplasmosis + occasionally fed individually for sorefoot) and neomycin sulfate powder that we drench scouring baby calves with, we will have to go out of the cow business. Our cattle run in such rough country that by the time we caught an outbreak of anaplasmosis, our losses would be heavy (this has happened in the past). If the cost of these drugs increase because of these regulations, I don't know how we'll handle it, we're barely surviving now.

We have four broiler houses, all we give to the chickens is vitamins, but Pilgrim mixes some drugs into the feed. The chickens have been bred for growth, not hardiness. I know these birds can't be grown as economically without the additives.

I'm sorry to be so blunt, but this is our livelihood. Ranching is all we've ever done and we're too old + unqualified to start all over. We're not old enough or financially able to retire.

Sincerely,
Loni Alexander
Haylon Alexander

98D-1146

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